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MONITORING OF INTERNATIONAL PLANS AND PROGRAMMES OF ACTION

Draft calendar of activities to mark the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year and draft world programme of action for youth towards the year 2000 and beyond

Report of the Secretary-General

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*E/CN.5/1993/1.

INTRODUCTION

1. In connection with the observance in 1995 of the tenth anniversary of International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace, the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1991/11 of 30 May 1991, decided that an open-ended ad hoc working group of the Commission for Social Development should be established at its thirty-third session in order to review and appraise progress achieved and obstacles identified in implementing the objectives of the International Youth Year; to prepare a draft calendar of activities to mark the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year; and to prepare a draft world youth programme of action towards the year 2000 and beyond, taking into account regional youth programmes of action. The Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission, for discussion by the working group, such a draft calendar of activities and draft programme of action.* The present report was prepared in accordance with the request of the Council.

I. TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR: OPPORTUNITY FOR REASSESSMENT

2. The tenth anniversary provides an opportunity for a fundamental reassessment of the role and purpose of United Nations activities in the field of youth, and the philosophy upon which they are based. Global developments have also made it particularly necessary to take stock at this juncture.

3. First, the profound consequences in many spheres of United Nations activity of the transformed geopolitical map and the end of East-West ideological rivalry will be felt in the field of youth in particular. Youth policy had in the past often been an object of manipulation along ideological lines. The period of preparation for International Youth Year, and the observance of the year itself, were marked by heightened political tensions which adversely influenced the preparation of the guidelines adopted in 1985; they were in large part responsible also for the failure then to reach agreement on a substantial world youth programme of action. Today, some of the language of the guidelines looks dated and some of the concepts appear obsolete; on the other hand, some of the major gaps are even more obvious.

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*Earlier, the General Assembly, in its resolution 44/59 of 8 December 1989, had requested the Secretary-General to include in his report on the implementation of the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth a draft programme of action to mark the tenth anniversary of International Youth Year. In resolution 45/103 of 14 December 1990, the Assembly had "emphasized the need for a review and appraisal of the progress achieved and obstacles encountered in the implementation of the guidelines and, on the basis of the evaluation, for preparation of a global youth programme of action towards the year 2000 and beyond, with a target orientation and within a specific time-frame". It had also requested the Secretary-General to prepare the draft programme of action "in accordance with proposals to be submitted by Member States, the United Nations and non-governmental youth organizations and in consultation with the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and the relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations".

4. Second, during the last decade the cumulative effects of a gathering pace of change in many spheres of life has become evident. The world today is very different from the world of 20 or 30 years ago, when the attitudes to the role of young people in society were formed, attitudes which shaped current policies and which continue to influence policies concerning the aspirations and needs of young people.

5. The situation of young people differs from country to country, and the differences in prospects for young people from different social backgrounds and material circumstances are striking, typically reflecting the often sharp cleavages in society at large. Changes in the context in which young people live, while not occurring uniformly, have penetrated, nevertheless, almost all aspects of life everywhere.

6. It is thus timely to make an assessment of the impact of change on the lives and prospects of young people and of the consequent need to adjust policies and activities to the contemporary setting, while recognizing and reaffirming that life confronts young people with unchanging problems and challenges as they pass from childhood to adulthood and strive to find an appropriate place or role in society. The tenth anniversary of International Youth Year provides, similarly, an opportunity for restating the basic principles and objectives of United Nations activities in the field of youth, updated to reflect current conditions and projected youth needs to the year 2000 and beyond. The world youth programme of action might thus appropriately be introduced by a statement of intent, which would combine a statement of principles, universally valid and timeless, reflecting basic values of the United Nations, in so far as they relate to the specific circumstances of young men and women, and a statement, in the particular contemporary setting, of the perceptions of young people regarding their needs and concerns.

II. ACTIVITIES TO MARK THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR

7. The draft calendar of activities to mark the tenth anniversary of International Youth Year is given in annex I. It is in two parts. The first, covering the period up to the end of 1994, which might be called the preparatory phase, provides a list of suggested activities intended largely to raise awareness and initiate substantive actions. The second, which might be called the observance phase, is geared to developing capacities for youth policy programming and implementation.

8. It is anticipated that Governments, the United Nations system amd other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, particularly youth organizations, would consider how best and most appropriately to mark the tenth anniversary of International Youth Year. They would inform the Secretariat of the United Nations, through its Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, as the focal point for youth-related activities, of the specific activities they were planning. Information thus collected would be included in the calendar covering the observance phase.

9. The calendar will be updated in the light of comments made on the draft calendar annexed to the present report, and will incorporate additional suggestions and information received from Governments, the United Nations system and other concerned intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. It will be disseminated periodically in order to publicize the activities being planned and widen their audience.

III. PROGRAMME OF ACTION TO THE YEAR 2000 AND BEYOND

10. In annex II, a tentative framework of a world youth programme is provided, together with suggested elements or building blocks for constructing the final action programme to the year 2000 and beyond.

11. The framework itself is made up of a base containing some of the means by which youth issues may be addressed and supported at the international level, and a superstructure consisting of the subject areas that need to be addressed. The focus at present is on the following priority areas: education; employment; hunger; health; environment; and drug abuse. Other subject areas may be added subsequently.

12. In preparing the framework and elements of a world youth programme of action, account has been taken of the views expressed at the Youth Forum of the United Nations System, held at Vienna from 27 to 29 May 1991, and at the eighth meeting of the informal inter-agency working group at the technical level on youth, held at Vienna from 30 to 31 May 1991. Account was also taken of comments and suggestions made in the General Assembly, at its forty-sixth session, on the report of the Secretary-General on policies and programmes in the field of youth (A/46/360), which contained a description of approaches to developing a world youth programme of action, as well as comments and suggestions made on the first preliminary draft of the programme of action as elaborated by an informal working group convened at Vienna from 9 to 13 December 1991.*

13. The draft programme of action contained in annex II, which is preliminary and tentative, will be revised in the light of the views expressed in the Commission, and in the further consultations envisaged with Governments, the United Nations system, and other concerned intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, particularly youth organizations. Revised drafts will be considered by the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session in 1994, and subsequently by the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-fourth session in early 1995, before being submitted for consideration and eventual adoption by the General Assembly at its fiftieth session in 1995, marking the tenth anniversary of International Youth Year.

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*The draft was circulated to States members of the Commission for Social Development, the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and non-governmental youth organizations. Comments and suggestions were received from the Governments of Austria, China, Finland, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Russian Federation and Spain, as well as from the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the All-Pakistan Youth Federation, the Council of European Youth Committees, HOPE '87 and Mobility International.

Annex 1

DRAFT CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES TO MARK THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR

A. Preparatory phase (1993-1994)

1. Activities at national level

1. Preparations could be facilitated by the establishment of a coordinating or preparatory committee at the highest level of government, including in its membership youth representatives. Such a body would undertake some or all of the following tasks:

(a) To develop a detailed programme based on an appropriate analysis of the situation of youth;

(b) To review existing youth-related national legislation, policies, plans and programmes, including administrative structures and services for youth;

(c) To collate and disseminate existing data and research on youth-related issues;

(d) To promote action-oriented research and studies by academic institutions, research institutes and youth organizations;

(e) To launch public information campaigns, using the mass media and other information networks, to promote awareness of youth issues and reinforce a positive attitude towards young people;

(f) To raise awareness of particular youth issues by promoting "creative" events, such as drawing, photographic, art and essay competitions, the results of which could be published in 1995;

(g) To promote communication between government and youth groups, and between the generations in different formal and informal settings, thereby encouraging the active involvement of young people in the preparation and commemoration of the tenth anniversary and in the shaping of youth policies.

2. Activities at international and regional level

(a) Non-governmental organizations

2. International and regional non-governmental organizations will clearly have an important role, and might thus wish to consider how best they could reorient some of their activities to mark the tenth anniversary. Some of the possibilities for action are:

(a) To carry out or support independent surveys on the situation of young people, support research and facilitate publication or dissemination of research findings, especially where other channels of distribution are difficult to access;

(b) To conduct independent surveys and assessments of existing youth policies, plans and programmes, identifying current and emerging youth issues;

(c) To facilitate the publishing and exchange of information on youth activities, using their publications and information networks;

(d) To promote cultural and educational exhibits and radio and television programmes, highlighting international cooperation on youth issues and concerns;

(e) To encourage their regional and national offices to assist Governments in activities related to the anniversary of the International Youth Year.

(b) United Nations agencies and bodies

3. United Nations agencies and bodies may be expected to provide appropriate support to the activities marking the tenth anniversary of International Youth Year, at the level and in a manner corresponding to their respective mandates. In planning their programmes for the period 1993-1994, they might wish to give special consideration to how these could be made to support the activities marking the anniversary. Various possibilities might be considered, as listed below:

(a) To link to the preparations for the tenth anniversary activities pertaining to other major international events, such as the International Year of the Family (1994), the International Conference on Population and Development (1994), the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace (1995), the celebrations of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Charter of the United Nations (1995) and the World Summit for Social Development (1995);

(b) To support Governments in strengthening their national youth policies, programmes and strategies;

(c) To organize meetings, seminars, conferences and workshops on specific topics of particular relevance to youth;

(d) To give special attention to youth issues in 1995 in their regular bulletins, journals and newsletters;

(e) To mobilize the substantive resources of their regional and national offices with a view to assisting youth non-governmental organizations in their preparatory activities.

B. Observance phase (1995)

1. Activities at national level

4. It is not yet possible to decide the most appropriate manner in which the tenth anniversary of International Youth Year might be marked in different countries, at different levels of Government and by the different non-governmental entities concerned. The type of activities that should be suggested for implementation in 1995 will depend on the extent to which plans drawn up for the preparatory phase in 1993 and 1994 are finalized and implemented. At this stage, Governments, in cooperation with national youth organizations, might be requested to plan ahead, so that the tenth anniversary may provide an opportunity to initiate substantive measures in favour of youth, taking advantage of the publicity generated by the anniversary and by events such as the following:

(a) Conferences, workshops and debates on youth-related issues, in which prominent persons in the community would take part, for instance, political leaders and scholars, and especially youth leaders;

(b) Statements and appearances by prominent political personalities including, where possible, heads of Government, highlighting the positive contributions young people make to society;

(c) Issuance of commemorative stamps, posters and other souvenir materials;

(d) Designating a national youth day, week or month during which youth issues could be highlighted in a variety of national events, by means of a special focus on youth, for example, in book fairs and other cultural events or sports competitions;

(e) Special events organized by young people to draw attention to days designated for commemoration by the United Nations and other events widely observed, for example, International Women's Day (8 March), World Health Day (7 April), World Environment Day (5 June), International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (26 June), International Day of Peace (third Tuesday in September), United Nations Day (24 October), World AIDS Day (1 December) and Human Rights Day (10 December).

2. Activities at international level

5. The General Assembly decided, in its resolution 45/103, to devote a plenary meeting at its fiftieth session to the tenth anniversary of International Youth Year, which will be, also, the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. The Assembly might wish to mark these events in some special manner, for example:

(a) By agreeing to a United Nations statement of intent on youth in conjunction with the adoption in 1995 of a world youth programme of action;

(b) By designating, in 1995, an International Youth Day.

Annex II

DRAFT WORLD YOUTH PROGRAMME OF ACTION TO THE YEAR 2000 AND BEYOND

A. Means for implementing the programme

1. Data

1. A capacity to collect and analyse data is necessary to implement a world programme effectively, to ensure accurate monitoring of changing events and to evaluate progress on the basis of comparable data. An ability to compile and compare statistical information should be established or strengthened, at both national and international levels. It would be helpful to strengthen networks of institutions involved in data-gathering, with a view to assisting the United Nations in the preparation of general and specific reports on progress in implementation of the programme.

2. In this respect, the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat provides a useful function which should be continued and expanded. The youth data programme of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) might effectively be coordinated with the activities of the Statistical Office, as was also the case of the data bank programme on adolescent health of the World Health Organization (WHO). Other bodies and agencies of the United Nations system should be invited to contribute data pertaining to their areas of expertise to a combined information bank on youth. The International Drug Abuse Assessment System established by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) could be invited to include a component on youth and drugs. An inventory of innovative and successful youth programmes and projects might be prepared, computerized and made available to all interested users by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna.

2. Research

3. Closely related to the need for data on youth is the need for research on specific topics of concern to youth. Cooperative arrangements between the United Nations and international, regional and national research institutions dealing with youth issues should be further developed. A goal should be the widest possible dissemination of recent studies and articles on the situation of young people in various regions of the world and on changing policy approaches to youth.

3. Public information

4. Awareness of youth issues and concerns are crucial for appropriate planning and action in the field of youth. Publications currently produced by the United Nations should be supplemented, in cooperation with the Department of Public Information, by the ad hoc production of leaflets and posters, particularly in connection with special events. A regular series of audiovisual programmes related to the target areas of the world youth programme of action could be initiated and disseminated through United Nations public information channels, governmental and non-governmental organizations and commercial outlets. To encourage support for youth programmes, young people and youth organizations should be encouraged and assisted to organize activities that draw attention to issues of concern and to the activities they propose to undertake in the context of the programme.

4. Coordination

5. Several mechanisms currently exist within the United Nations system for coordination of activities on youth. Channels have also been developed between the United Nations and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations dealing with these issues. Such mechanisms could be strengthened.

6. Entities within the United Nations system responsible for youth issues should consider reviewing their medium-term plans to include programme elements of direct interest to young people. They might also consider the possibility of devoting resources from their programme budgets to activities in support of the World Youth Programme of Action.

5. National policy statements on youth

7. Just as a global policy consensus will be important to the success of the programme at the international level, formulation and promulgation by each Member State of the United Nations of a national youth policy statement and designation of a national governmental entity responsible for youth issues will be crucial to its success.

8. The United Nations should assist Governments, at their request, by providing model frameworks for such policy statements and for defining the organizational responsibilities of the governmental entities responsible for youth issues.

6. Action in the private and voluntary sectors

9. A crucial element of the programme should be a recognition that governmental action alone will not be sufficient to ensure its success. The private and voluntary sectors should be fully involved in the development and implementation of the World Youth Programme of Action.

10. There is a need for further expansion and regularization of channels of communication between the United Nations and non-governmental youth organizations. Provisions for the involvement of youth and non-governmental youth organizations in the formulation of the programme have already been established by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/103. Efforts should be made to ensure that those provisions are implemented. Youth and youth organizations should also be involved in a longer-term process of review, appraisal and periodic reformulation of the goals and targets of the programme.

11. In addition to encouraging and enabling youth to become involved during the elaboration, implementation and monitoring of the programme of action, the programme should also encourage and develop youth exchanges as well as sports, technical and intercultural cooperation among youth and youth organizations. These activities should emphasize mutual dependence between young people and society at large.

12. Issue-specific voluntary organizations, particularly those concerned with education, employment, health, hunger, the environment and drug abuse, should be encouraged to increase the involvement of young people in their planning and activities. The programme should inform such organizations of its purposes and activities and encourage mutual cooperation.

7. Outreach

13. United Nations programmes of technical cooperation might be encouraged to consider their impact on the situation of young people, and assisted to include specific youth components in their activities. Advisory services should be made available to Governments, upon their request, to promote the development of integrated national youth policies and programmes. Consultations among various United Nations agencies and bodies on technical cooperation in the field of youth should be strengthened. This would include an increase in the number of transsectoral youth components in projects of the United Nations Development Programme and other organizations of the United Nations system.

8. An overall enabling mechanism for the programme

14. The success of the World Youth Programme of Action will depend on the soundness of the principles, strategies and targets that underlie it. Significant expressions of commitment by the institutions responsible for its adoption and implementation will also be required. Without such commitment by governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental entities at the national, regional and international levels, the programme will run the risk of remaining little more than a statement of intent and goodwill.

15. Therefore, development of an overall enabling mechanism for the programme is necessary. Such a mechanism should engage, on a continuing basis, the political and financial resources necessary to ensure that the programme may operate efficiently and effectively.

16. It may be desirable to investigate the feasibility of establishing a standing conference of ministers responsible for youth affairs, to meet at five-year intervals beginning in 1996. The purpose and main function would be to ensure effective launching and monitoring of the programme at the national, regional and international levels.

17. Substantial additional resources for the United Nations Youth Fund would ensure that it could carry out its mandated functions and would assist in the implementation of the World Youth Programme of Action. An advisory group of eminent persons might be convened as "friends of the United Nations Youth Fund" to recommend ways to secure and maintain the resource base of the Fund.

B. Subject areas

18. The World Youth Programme of Action will have to be carried out primarily at the national and local levels, supported by appropriate action at the international and regional levels, as indicated. The following action programme at the national and local level is proposed. It focuses on the six priority areas (education, employment, hunger, health, environment and drug abuse) identified by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/103. Targets are grouped under the relevant priority area.

1. Education

19. Although progress towards universal education and literacy has been fairly impressive in recent times, the number of illiterates will continue to grow and the least developed countries are likely to fall short of universal primary education by the year 2000. Two main concerns regarding current systems of

education may be expressed. The first concerns the paucity of educational opportunities for young women, migrants, refugees, minorities, young people in rural areas and young people who suffer disabilities. The second concerns the relevance of education to employment, and its usefulness for assisting young people in the transition to adulthood.

20. In order to encourage development of educational systems more in tune with the current needs of young people and the future needs of their societies, it would be helpful to share experience and to investigate alternative arrangements, such as informal and non-formal arrangements for provision of basic literacy.

Targets

(a) Achievement of 85 per cent literacy and numeracy among the youth population by a determined date

21. National Governments should establish literacy and numeracy targets as part of national youth policy. Non-governmental youth organizations and education organizations such as the International Council on Adult Education and Literacy should develop youth-to-youth programmes for literacy and numeracy. Particular attention should be given to specific groups of youth in distressed circumstances, including migrant and refugee youth and poor youth in urban and rural areas, as well as to special problems such as literacy and numeracy for blind youth and youth with other disabilities. Consideration should be given to developing programmes enabling retired and elderly people to teach youth literacy and numeracy skills.

(b) Appreciation for the cultural heritage and contemporary patterns of society

22. National Governments should establish programmes to educate young people in the cultural heritage of their societies. Governments should institute, in cooperation with non-governmental youth organizations, travel programmes and work camps to help youth understand cultural diversity and participate in the preservation of the cultural stock. UNESCO, in cooperation with organizations such as the International Council of Museums and Historic Sites, should expand international programmes by which young people from different cultures may help restore major international cultural sites.

(c) Vocational and professional training

23. Governments and educational institutions should establish guidelines which ensure that vocational and professional training remain relevant to the requirements of the national economy. Governments should also establish systems for evaluation of student educational achievement and preparedness for employment. Regional and international intergovernmental organizations, in cooperation with non-governmental youth organizations, should establish model standards of excellence in skills and professional training.

(d) Training-for-enterprise programmes

24. Governments, in cooperation with regional and international organizations, should formulate model programmes of training for youth in individual and cooperative enterprises. They should establish self-contained enterprise centres where young people may plan and test their enterprise venture concepts.

(e) Infrastructure for training of youth workers and youth leaders

25. Governments should assess the adequacy of facilities and programmes to train youth workers and youth leaders, including the adequacy of curricula and staff resources. On the basis of such assessments, Governments should take steps to plan and implement relevant training programmes. Non-governmental youth organizations should formulate and disseminate model training courses for use by member organizations.

26. The United Nations and other interested organizations should investigate the establishment of an international youth worker and youth leader training institute, with priority given to accepting participants from developing countries. In cooperation with concerned organizations that provide training opportunities for youth, including internships and volunteer programmes, it should establish an inventory of and system-wide guidelines for such programmes.

27. Organizations should assist young people in developing countries to obtain places at suitable training institutions in developed countries or other parts of the developing world.

2. Employment

28. Unemployment and underemployment among youth is a problem everywhere. The problem has worsened in recent years because of global recession which often affects developing countries most. The difficulty of finding suitable employment is compounded by a host of other problems confronting young people, including illiteracy and insufficient training, and is worsened by periods of economic slow-down. In some countries the problems caused by the influx of young people into the employment market are acute. According to estimates of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), more than 100 million new jobs would have to be created within the next 20 years in order to provide suitable employment for the growing number of young people in the economically active populations of developing countries. The situation of girls and young women, as well as of youth with disabilities, refugee youth, migrant youth and minorities warrants urgent attention.

29. The crisis of youth unemployment is also a crisis of opportunity for young people to participate in the life of society. Advances in technology and communications, coupled with improved productivity, have reduced the relative importance of the human factor in production. More and more products are now produced using fewer and fewer workers. Young people are among the most severely affected by this development because it portends a future of declining opportunity for work and reduced prospects for fulfilment.

Targets

(a) Opportunities for self-employment

30. Governments and organizations should create grant schemes to provide seed money to encourage and support enterprise and employment programmes for young people. Businesses and enterprises should be enlisted to provide counterpart financial and technical support for such schemes. Cooperative schemes involving young people in production and marketing of goods and services should be developed. Formation of youth development banks should be considered. The United-Nations-system-affiliated Committee to Promote Aid to Cooperatives

should develop models for youth-run cooperatives in developed and developing countries. Such models would include guidelines for management training and training in entrepreneurial techniques. They should be available for dissemination in 1995, at the time of consideration by the General Assembly of the World Youth Programme of Action.

(b) Employment opportunities for specific groups of the youth population

31. Within funds designated to promote youth employment, Governments should designate fixed percentages for programmes supporting the efforts of young women, youth with disabilities, youth returning from military service, migrant youth and refugee youth. Youth organizations should be directly involved with the planning and implementation of these programmes.

(c) Voluntary community services for youth

32. Where they do not yet already exist, Governments should consider the establishment of youth voluntary service programmes. Such programmes would provide alternatives to military service, or might constitute a required element in educational curricula, depending on national policies and priorities. Work camps, environmental protection and intergenerational cooperation programmes should be included among the opportunities offered. Youth organizations should be directly involved in the planning and implementation of such voluntary service programmes.

(d) The needs created by technological change

33. Governments, particularly in developed countries, should ensure that employment opportunities are created for young people in fields that are rapidly evolving as a result of technological innovation. A subset of the employment data compiled by Governments should track entry of youth into those fields marked by newly emerging technologies.

34. Special attention should be paid to developing and disseminating approaches which promote flexibility in training systems and collaboration between training institutions and employers, especially for young people in high-technology industries.

3. Hunger

35. Hunger remains one of the most serious and intractable threats to humanity. It prevents those who suffer from it, most often youth and children, from taking part in society, even when opportunities for such participation exist. Hunger is the result of many factors: unwise exploitation of natural resources; environmental pollution; natural and human-made disasters; conflicts between traditional and contemporary production systems; mismanagement of distribution; maldistribution of financial resources; population growth; and armed conflicts.

Targets

(a) Making farming more rewarding and life in agricultural areas more attractive

36. Governments should enhance educational and cultural services in rural areas to make them more attractive to young people. Experimental farming

programmes directed to young people should be initiated, and extension services expanded to maintain improvements in agricultural production and marketing.

37. Local and national Governments should organize cultural events that enhance exchanges between urban and rural youth. Youth organizations should organize conventions and meetings in rural areas, with special efforts to enlist the cooperation of rural populations, including rural youth.

(b) Skill-training for income generation by young people

38. Governments, in cooperation with youth organizations, should develop training programmes for youth which improve methods of agricultural production and marketing. Training should be based on rural economic needs and the needs of young people in rural areas for the development of production. Attention should be given in such programmes to young women, youth returning to rural areas from the cities, youth with disabilities, refugee and migrant youth, and youth returning from military service.

(c) Land grants for young people with special needs

39. Governments should provide grants of land to youth and youth organizations, supported by financial and technical assistance and training. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and ILO should document and disseminate information about national experience with land-grant and settlement schemes for use by Governments.

(d) Cooperation between urban and rural youth in food production and distribution

40. Non-governmental youth organizations should organize direct-marketing groups, including production and distribution cooperatives, to bring agricultural products directly from young farmers to consumers. The aim of such groups should be to reduce food shortages and losses from defective systems of food transport to markets.

(e) The relationship between hunger among young people and population policy

41. Governments should study more closely the relationship between hunger and rapid population growth and take the relationship into account in formulating their national youth policies. Governments, in cooperation with youth organizations, should make information and services related to this issue more widely available to young people.

4. Health

42. Young people in all parts of the world suffer from poor health as a result of societal conditions as well as their own actions. Often, poor health is caused by lack of information. The resulting problems include sexually transmitted diseases, including infection with the human immunodeficiency (HIV) virus; early pregnancies; lack of hygiene and sanitation leading to infection, infestation and diarrhoea; genetic and congenital diseases; psychological and mental diseases; narcotic and psychotropic drug abuse; misuse of alcohol and tobacco; unwarranted risk-taking and destructive activity, resulting in accidents; malnutrition; poor spacing of births; and lack of health services for youth.

Targets

(a) Development of appropriate sex education programmes

43. Governments should develop, with educational institutions, curricula to provide appropriate sex education at all levels of the educational system. National and local Governments, in cooperation with non-governmental youth organizations, should develop opportunities for peer counselling and similar youth-to-youth programmes to convey to young people the dangers of unsafe sexual practices.

(b) Promotion of good sanitation and hygiene practices

44. Governments, in cooperation with youth organizations, should promote the establishment of national youth health associations to promote good sanitation and hygiene.

(c) Promotion of family planning programmes for young people

45. Governments should develop complete family planning service programmes for young people, designed to inform them of the requirements for healthy family formation and to provide counselling services for youth in distressed circumstances.

(d) Prevention of disease and illness among youth resulting from poor health practices

46. Governments, in cooperation with youth organizations, should investigate the possibility of adopting policies for discouraging tobacco use among young people, including the banning of advertisements of tobacco products.

47. Programmes should be instituted which train medical and paramedical students in issues of good health particularly relevant to young people. Research into such issues should be promoted, particularly research into the effects and treatment of drug abuse and addiction. Youth organizations should be enlisted in these efforts.

48. Governments should enhance the scope of drug control agencies established under the provisions of existing United Nations conventions to monitor the distribution of addictive drugs. In accordance with the treaties, government entities and non-governmental organizations should cooperate in carrying out demand reduction programmes for illicit drugs, tobacco and alcohol.

(e) Combating malnutrition among young people

49. Governments should promote out-of-school and post-primary-school health projects by individuals and youth organizations, emphasizing information on healthy eating practices. School lunch programmes, provision of food supplements and similar services should be available whenever possible to help ensure proper diets for young people.

(f) HIV infection and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) among young people

50. Governments and youth organizations should develop specific programmes of information and education for young people so that they can take proper precautions against infection with the HIV virus and the development of AIDS.

5. Environment

51. The natural environment continues to deteriorate, and this is one of the principal concerns of young people worldwide. The natural environment must be maintained and preserved, and the causes of environmental degradation must be fought. Environmentally friendly exploitation of natural resources and environmentally sustainable economic growth will improve human life. Sustainable development has become a key element in the programmes of youth organizations throughout the world. While every segment of society is responsible for maintaining the environmental integrity of the community, youth have a special interest in maintaining a healthy environment and should be involved in setting and implementing appropriate environmental policies.

Targets

(a) Integration of environmental training into education and training programmes

52. Greater emphasis should be given in school curricula to environmental education. Training programmes should be provided to inform teachers of the environmental aspects of their subject matter and to enable them to educate youth on environmentally sound lifestyles.

53. The participation of youth groups in gathering environmental data and in understanding actual environmental action should be encouraged as a means of improving both their knowledge of the environment and their personal concern for proper care of the environment.

(b) Improving exchange of information on environmental issues between developed and developing countries

54. The United Nations Environment Programme should intensify production of audiovisual materials illustrating the connection between environmental degradation in developing and developed countries and describing the outcome of initiatives undertaken in those countries. Governments and youth organizations should initiate and develop youth-to-youth contacts through town-twinning and similar programmes in order to share the experience gained in different countries.

(c) Strengthening participation of youth in protection, preservation and improvement of the environment

55. Governments and youth organizations should initiate research and action programmes in waste minimization and recycling. The participation of young people and their organizations in such programmes can provide good training for their future awareness and action, although young people should not be unduly relied upon to be clean-up agents in case of environmental mishaps or degradation. In developing countries, such programmes may be considered potential income-generating activities that present opportunities for employment in weak labour markets.

6. Drug abuse

56. The vulnerability of young people to drug misuse and abuse has in recent years become a major concern. The consequences of widespread drug abuse and trafficking, particularly for young men and women, are all too apparent.

Targets

(a) Direct participation of youth organizations and youth in demand reduction programmes for young people

57. Drug control strategy at national and international levels consistently emphasizes initiatives aimed at reducing drug abuse among young people. This is reflected in the resolutions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and in the demand reduction programmes of UNDCP. To be effective, demand reduction programmes should be targeted at specific groups of young people considered at risk, and the contents of the programmes should directly respond to the interests and concerns of persons in these groups. Youth organizations can play a key role in designing and implementing programmes to encourage integration of youth into the community and to develop healthy lifestyles, which are the best protection against drug abuse. Programmes could include participation in group activities such as team sports, hiking and camping. Civic organizations could make a contribution by providing equipment and helping to construct playing fields and sports arenas, as well as by helping to transmit organizational skills to young people. The programme should include training of youth leaders in communication and counselling skills and person-to-person communication.

(b) Training medical and paramedical students in the rational use of pharmaceuticals containing narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances

58. As the number of psychotropic drugs increases steadily and their effects and appropriate prescriptive practices are often not fully known, some patients may not be adequately treated and others may become overmedicated. Self-medication with tranquillizers, sleeping-pills and stimulants can also create serious problems, particularly in countries and regions where distribution controls are weak and habit-forming drugs are purchased abroad or diverted from licit channels of distribution.

59. As training in this range of professions and skills is normally transmitted to young men and women in their early twenties or younger, medical curricula could usefully be enlarged to include elements on the effects of habit-forming drugs and appropriate prescriptive techniques. Similarly, job-training programmes for hospital staff and pharmaceutical supply houses should include control techniques designed to avoid leakage or deliberate diversion of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances into illicit channels.

60. UNDCP and WHO have already begun to develop initiatives along these lines, and courses are now also being given at several universities in different countries. WHO, associations of the medical and paramedical professions, pharmaceutical corporations and medical faculties could be asked to formulate model training courses for inclusion in training curricula, and these model courses could be translated and widely disseminated to assist universities and training institutions in ensuring that future cohorts of young students are adequately prepared for their responsibilities.

(c) Treatment and rehabilitation of young people who are drug abusers or drug-dependent

61. The international community places particular emphasis on demand reduction and prevention of the first use of drugs in realistic awareness of the difficulty of achieving effective treatment for abusers and drug-dependent persons,

and of the discouragingly high levels of post-treatment relapse into drug abuse. Identification of comprehensive programmes adapted to the social and cultural context is a difficult task, which is further complicated by controversies over the effectiveness of various approaches to treatment.

62. Research has been undertaken into the possibilities of identifying medication to block cravings for specific drugs without creating secondary dependency, but much remains to be done in this area. The need for such medical advances has become more urgent with the worldwide increase in abuse and addiction, as the growing prevalence of AIDS places added burdens on treatment facilities and compounds the problems of addiction by infection transmitted through contaminated needles.

63. Graduate students in faculties of medicine and chemistry, or in the social services and public administration, could be encouraged to focus their research on such complex issues as medical treatment of drug-dependent persons and abusers, administration of the public health components of drug treatment and rehabilitation, surveys of the effectiveness of different types and combinations of treatment, and comparable rates of recidivism.

64. Of particular interest is the development of treatment techniques involving the family setting and peer groups, and young people can make significant contributions by participating in peer group therapy to facilitate the acceptance of young drug-dependent persons and abusers upon their re-entry into the community. Direct participation in rehabilitation therapy entails close cooperation between youth groups and other community and health services, and WHO and other worldwide medical and mental health organizations could set guidelines for continuing research and for carrying out comparable programmes in different settings whose effectiveness could be evaluated over a given period of time.

(d) Care for young drug abusers and drug-dependent suspects and offenders in the criminal justice and prison system

65. Authorities may consider possible strategies to limit exposure to drug abuse and dependence among young people suspected or convicted of criminal offences. Such strategies could include alternative measures such as daily reporting to police stations or requirements for regular visits to parole officers, and fulfilment of a specified number of hours of community service.

66. Prison authorities should cooperate closely with law enforcement agencies to keep drugs out of the prison system. Prison personnel should be discouraged from tolerating the presence of drugs in penal institutions, as laxity in observing the law brings the entire judicial system into disrepute.

67. Young prisoners who are already drug-dependent should be segregated as far as practicable and targeted as priority candidates for treatment and rehabilitation services. Guidelines and standard minimum rules should be prepared to assist national authorities in law enforcement and prison systems in maintaining the necessary controls and initiating treatment and rehabilitation services. Action along these lines constitutes a long-term advantage to society, as the cycle of dependence, release, repeated offences and repeated incarcerations constitutes a heavy burden on the criminal justice system entirely apart from the wasted lives and personal tragedies which result from drug dependence and criminal behaviour.